

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Draft Adolescent Literacy Plan (Plan under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.645 Capacities Required of Students in the Public Education System
KRS 158.6451 Legislative Declaration on Goals for Commonwealth's Schools
704 KAR 3:304 Required Program of Studies
704 KAR 3:305 Minimum High School Graduation Requirements
KRS 158.6453 Assessment of Achievement Goals
KRS 164.0207 Collaborative Center for Literacy Development
NCLB Reading First

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Adolescent literacy is a Kentucky Board of Education priority. With support from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), Kentucky has had the opportunity to engage key stakeholders in developing an adolescent literacy plan for the state. Last September, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and the Kentucky Reading Association sponsored an adolescent literacy forum where guests representing K-12, higher education and business were able to learn more about adolescent literacy issues in the nation and in Kentucky. They were also asked to present ideas about how the state could address topics related to the NASBE grant goals. The feedback received from the forum participants was used to draft the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan.

In January of 2008, the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Task Force convened to review and offer feedback on the plan. The Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan was developed to address the goals established by the NASBE grant and includes recommendations received from K-12, higher education, business and government. It also includes the latest national research on the topic. Since the task force does not meet until January 18th, the action plan will be sent under separate cover to the KBE.

The purpose of this review item is to provide the KBE with an overview of the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan and to ask for feedback and recommendations, leading to the final version, which will be presented in April for approval. The plan is presented to prepare Board members for decisions as they move forward with implementation and future budget recommendations.

The Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) State Adolescent Literacy Network, with funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, has provided funding to five states, including Kentucky, to guide state leadership efforts in crafting comprehensive state literacy initiatives that address literacy instruction in core academic subjects as a part of the states' overall school improvement initiatives.

As a part of Kentucky's funded proposal, the primary goals of the NASBE grant are to:

1. Develop an Adolescent Literacy Task Force charged with developing a statewide Adolescent Literacy Plan.
2. Develop a position statement for stakeholder groups, as well as a compilation of resources and model programs to build knowledge and create interest in advocating for change.
3. Enhance teacher preparation and certification by requiring courses in literacy and creating a literacy coach/teacher leader endorsement.
4. Design and implement professional development opportunities for schools based on existing programs and models (e.g., Striving Readers, the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project, content literacy academies).
5. Provide state-level guidance and training for schools to develop comprehensive literacy plans beginning in fall 2008.

In developing Kentucky's Adolescent Literacy Plan, KDE staff and partners analyzed national and state data, research and recommendations from national organizations, and lessons learned from existing literacy initiatives, such as Reading First, Striving Readers and the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project. Also included in this work are plans to address accelerated learning associated with college readiness standards and the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS).

Based on feedback received from key stakeholders, the draft Kentucky plan is organized into the following areas:

1. Teacher Preparation/Certification
2. Professional Development
3. Instruction
4. Data Informed Decision Making
5. Support Structure

Each of these five areas contains an overview, stating the need or urgency and is followed by a chart outlining the specific recommendations for each area, the rationale for the recommendation, resources to support or needed to support, and the Condition of Literacy Success to which it applies.

Policy Issue(s):

The board will be asked to give input on the following:

- How well does the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan draft address the needs of Kentucky educators and students?
- Does the KBE have further recommendations or revisions to suggest to the plan?

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Through implementation of a statewide adolescent literacy plan, the impact on teacher preparation and professional growth support students from early childhood through high school graduation. They have a strong impact on enabling students to reach proficiency in literacy.

Contact Person:

Jamie Spugnardi, Associate Commissioner
Office of Teaching and Learning
(502) 564-2106
Jamie.Spugnardi@education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education**Date:**

February 2008